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Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, page 1, before para. 1 ("The disclosed system..."):

-- The present application claims priority benefit to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/454,172, filed on March 11, 2003, and to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/461,548, filed on April 7, 2003.-- has been inserted.

Missing drawings 7A and 7B have been added to the application (see attached).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed May 22, 2008 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-2 and 4-39 are allowed (renumbered as 1-38, respectively).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Swales (US 2006/0031488) discloses a managed switch and an unmanaged switch using in a network (fig. 4).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Harper whose telephone number is 571-272-3166. The examiner can normally be reached weekdays from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Trost, can be reached at 571-272-7872. The centralized fax number for the Patent Office is 571-273-8300. For non-official communications, the examiner's personal fax number is 571-273-3166 and the examiner's e-mail address is kevin.harper@uspto.gov.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications associated with a customer number is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see portal.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kevin C. Harper/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2616

August 31, 2008